

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for characterizing a timing delay curve of a circuit component, said timing delay curve having a first region and a second region, comprising:
 - determining a first delay equation representing said first region of the delay curve;
 - determining a second delay equation representing said second region of the delay curve;
 - and
 - determining a corner capacitance of said circuit component by setting said first delay equation equal to said second delay equation and solving said first delay equation and said second delay equation for said corner capacitance, said corner capacitance representing a transition point from said first region to said second region.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining a first delay equation further comprises:
 - creating a model of said circuit component, said model having a variable resistance, said variable resistance changing substantially linearly between a maximum resistance and a minimum resistance; and
 - deriving an equation for the delay of said model for $0 < t < \tau$, where t represents time and τ represents an input signal edge time.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said deriving an equation ~~step~~ further comprises:
 - determining an equation for the gradient of a linear change between said maximum resistance and said minimum resistance of said variable resistance.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining said second delay equation further comprises:

creating a model of said circuit component, said model having a variable resistance, said variable resistance changing substantially linearly between a maximum resistance and a minimum resistance; and

deriving an equation for the delay of said model for $[[t \leq] t \geq \tau]$, where t represents time and τ represents an input signal edge time.

5. cancelled

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining a first delay equation further comprises:

determining a delay equation for a curvilinear region of the delay curve.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining a second delay equation further comprises:

determining a delay equation for a linear region of the delay curve.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining a first delay equation further comprises:

setting the delay, d , of said circuit component equal to $\frac{\tau}{1-f} [1 - 2^{-(1-f)RC/\tau}]$, where R

represents the variable resistance of said component, C represents a capacitance of said component, τ represents an input signal edge time, and f represents a constant fraction between zero and one.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining a second delay equation further comprises:

setting the delay, d , of said circuit component equal to $fRC \ln 2$, where R represents the variable resistance of said component, C represents the capacitance of said component, and f represents a constant fraction between zero and one.